



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 52

February Session, 2018

House Bill No. 5137

House of Representatives, March 28, 2018

The Committee on Housing reported through REP. BUTLER of the 72nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ELIMINATING REDUCTIONS OF STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES WHOSE RESIDENTS RECEIVED GRANT PAYMENTS UNDER THE RENTERS REBATE PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 12-170f of the 2018 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

4 (a) Any renter, believing himself or herself to be entitled to a grant
5 under section 12-170d for any calendar year, shall apply for such grant
6 to the assessor of the municipality in which the renter resides or to the
7 duly authorized agent of such assessor or municipality on or after
8 April first and not later than October first of each year with respect to
9 such grant for the calendar year preceding each such year, on a form
10 prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
11 Management to the assessor. A renter may apply to the secretary prior
12 to December fifteenth of the claim year for an extension of the
13 application period. The secretary may grant such extension in the case

14 of extenuating circumstance due to illness or incapacitation as
15 evidenced by a certificate signed by a physician or an advanced
16 practice registered nurse to that extent, or if the secretary determines
17 there is good cause for doing so. A renter making such application
18 shall present to such assessor or agent, in substantiation of the renter's
19 application, a copy of the renter's federal income tax return, and if not
20 required to file a federal income tax return, such other evidence of
21 qualifying income, receipts for money received, or cancelled checks, or
22 copies thereof, and any other evidence the assessor or such agent may
23 require. When the assessor or agent is satisfied that the applying renter
24 is entitled to a grant, such assessor or agent shall issue a certificate of
25 grant in such form as the secretary may prescribe and supply showing
26 the amount of the grant due.

27 (b) The assessor or agent shall forward the application to the
28 secretary not later than the last day of the month following the month
29 in which the renter has made application. Any municipality that
30 neglects to transmit to the secretary the application as required by this
31 section shall forfeit two hundred fifty dollars to the state, provided the
32 secretary may waive such forfeiture in accordance with procedures
33 and standards adopted by regulation in accordance with chapter 54.
34 The certificate of grant shall be delivered to the renter and the assessor
35 or agent shall keep the [original copy] copies of such certificate and
36 application.

37 (c) After the secretary's review of each claim, pursuant to section 12-
38 120b, and verification of the amount of the grant, the secretary shall
39 make a determination of any per cent reduction to all claims that will
40 be necessary to keep within available appropriations and, not later
41 than October fifteenth of each year, prepare a list of certificates
42 approved for payment, and shall thereafter supplement such list
43 monthly. Such list and any supplements thereto shall be approved for
44 payment by the secretary and shall be forwarded by the secretary to
45 the Comptroller, along with a notice of any necessary per cent
46 reduction in claim amounts, and the Comptroller shall, not later than
47 fifteen days following receipt of such list, draw an order on the

48 Treasurer in favor of each person on such list and on supplements to
49 such list in the amount of such person's claim, minus any per cent
50 reduction noticed by the secretary pursuant to this subsection, and the
51 Treasurer shall pay such amount to such person, not later than fifteen
52 days following receipt of such order.

53 [(d) The secretary shall (1) select one or more grants of state
54 financial assistance provided to a municipality pursuant to any
55 provision of the general statutes to withhold or reduce for purposes of
56 this section, (2) not later than June 30, 2018, and each fiscal year
57 thereafter, withhold or reduce such state financial assistance provided
58 to a municipality in an amount equal to fifty per cent of any grant
59 payments made pursuant to this section to renters in such municipality
60 for the most recent application period, provided the aggregate amount
61 withheld or reduced shall not exceed two hundred fifty thousand
62 dollars per municipality for any fiscal year, and (3) transfer such
63 amounts withheld or reduced to the Office of Policy and Management
64 for purposes of making grant payments pursuant to this section. For
65 purposes of this subsection "state financial assistance" means any grant
66 funded by an appropriation authorized by public or special act of the
67 General Assembly, but excluding any grant or loan financed from the
68 proceeds of the state's general obligation bond issued pursuant to any
69 authorization, allocation or approval of the State Bond Commission.]

70 [(e)] (d) If the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
71 determines a renter was overpaid for such grant, the amount of any
72 subsequent grant paid to the renter under section 12-170d after such
73 determination shall be reduced by the amount of overpayment until
74 the overpayment has been recouped. Any claimant aggrieved by the
75 results of the secretary's review or determination shall have the rights
76 of appeal as set forth in section 12-120b. Applications filed under this
77 section shall not be open for public inspection. Any person who, for
78 the purpose of obtaining a grant under section 12-170d wilfully fails to
79 disclose all matters related thereto or with intent to defraud makes any
80 false statement shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

81 [(f)] (e) Any municipality may provide, upon approval by its
82 legislative body, that the duties and responsibilities of the assessor, as
83 required under this section and section 12-170g, shall be transferred to
84 (1) the officer in such municipality having responsibility for the
85 administration of social services, or (2) the coordinator or agent for the
86 elderly in such municipality.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2018	12-170f
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HSG *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: See Below

Municipal Impact: See Below

Explanation

The bill, which eliminates a requirement that the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) reduce municipal aid by \$8.5 million in FY 18 and FY 19, potentially results in a shift in savings to the General Fund. The agency would need to identify savings associated with the underlying lapse elsewhere in order to fulfill budget requirements.

PA 17-4, the revision to the FY 18 and FY 19 biennium budget act, includes a bottom line General Fund lapse of \$8.5 million. OPM must achieve this lapse by cutting aid to municipalities by up to fifty percent of what their respective residents receive in Renter's Rebate payments.

This figure would change in FY 20 depending on the cost of the Renters' Rebate program.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5137*****AN ACT ELIMINATING REDUCTIONS OF STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES WHOSE RESIDENTS RECEIVED GRANT PAYMENTS UNDER THE RENTERS REBATE PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill eliminates the requirement under the Renters' Rebate Program that the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) annually recover from each municipality 50% of the cost of issuing rebates, up to \$250,000. It thus shifts responsibility for funding the program entirely back to the state.

Beginning in FY 18, current law requires OPM to recover rebate costs by selecting at least one state grant per municipality from which to withhold funds, up to the \$250,000 maximum.

By law, the Renters' Rebate Program provides rent and utility reimbursements to older adults or totally disabled renters whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. Individuals apply annually to local assessors or their agents between April 1 and October 1 for reimbursement for payments made in the preceding calendar year.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/14/2018)